

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22+, wherein each of said flexible web elements are interposed between an adjacent two of said retaining elements.

3. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22+, wherein each of said retaining elements is constructed and arranged to engage the container for retention purposes.

4. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22+, wherein at least one of said flexible web elements is shaped so as to have a predetermined crease line about which said web element will begin to fold as said J-hook retention member is circumferentially compressed.

5. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 4, wherein said flexible web element is shaped so that said predetermined crease line is positioned radially inwardly from the nearest retaining element, whereby said flexible web element will be caused to fold radially inwardly as said J-hook retention member is circumferentially compressed.

6. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22+, wherein at least one of said flexible web elements has a ventilation opening defined therein.

7. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 6, wherein a plurality of said flexible web elements have a ventilation opening defined therein.

8. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 6, wherein said ventilation opening is defined in an upper portion of said flexible web element that is proximate to said main band portion of said J-hook retention member.

9. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22~~1~~, wherein said retaining elements are tapered in their circumferential dimensions so as to narrow at distal ends thereof that are distal to said body portion of said closure.

10. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 9, wherein said flexible web elements are inversely tapered with respect to said retaining elements.

11. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22~~1~~, wherein said flexible web elements are sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially compressible by at least 10 percent.

12. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 11, wherein said flexible web elements are sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially compressible by at least 20 percent.

13. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident closure according to claim 22~~1~~, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 20 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

14. (Original) A tamper evident closure according to claim 13, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 10 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

15. (Original) A method of applying a tamper evident closure of the J-hook type, comprising steps of:

(a) providing a container having an opening;

(b) providing a closure of the type including a base, a downwardly depending sidewall portion and a tamper evident band frangibly connected to the sidewall portion that includes a main band portion and a J-hook retention member that includes a plurality of retaining elements and a plurality of flexible web elements, the retention member being oriented in a first molded position wherein it is positioned substantially beneath and in alignment with the main band portion of said tamper evident band; and

(c) installing the closure onto the container so that the retention member is circumferentially compressed and is moved to a second engaged position wherein said retention member is bent upwardly and inwardly to engage the container for retention purposes.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein step (c) is performed so as to circumferentially compressed said J-hook retention member by at least 10 percent.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein step (c) is performed so as to circumferentially compressed said J-hook retention member by at least 20 percent.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 20 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said first molded position is characterized by said retention member being positioned so that a longitudinal axis of one of said retaining elements is no more than 10 degrees divergent from a longitudinal axis of said downwardly depending sidewall portion of said closure.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein step (b) is performed with a closure that further has a ventilation opening defined in at least one of said flexible web elements.

21. (New) A tamper evident closure, comprising:

a body portion comprising a base and a downwardly depending sidewall portion; and
a tamper evident band frangibly connected to said sidewall portion, said tamper evident band comprising:

a main band portion, and

a J-hook retention member that is oriented in a first molded position that is substantially beneath and in alignment with said main band portion of said tamper evident band, said J-hook retention member extending continuously about an entire circumference of said tamper evident band.

22. (New) A tamper evident closure according to claim 21, herein said J-hook retention member further comprises a plurality of retaining elements, at least some of said retaining elements being constructed and arranged to engage a container to which said closure may be mounted in order to retain said tamper evident band on the container when said body portion is removed from the container; and a plurality of flexible web elements, said flexible web elements being sufficiently flexible to render said J-hook retention member circumferentially compressible from said first molded position and a second engaged position wherein said retention member is bent upwardly and inwardly to engage the container for retention purposes.

23. (New) A method of applying a tamper evident closure of the J-hook type, comprising steps of:

(a) providing a container having an opening;

(b) providing a closure of the type including a base, a downwardly depending sidewall portion and a tamper evident band frangibly connected to the sidewall portion that includes a main band portion and a J-hook retention member that extends continuously about a circumference of the tamper-evident band and includes a plurality of retaining elements and a plurality of flexible web elements; and

(c) installing the closure onto the container so that the retention member is circumferentially compressed as it is moved to an engaged position wherein said retention member is bent upwardly and inwardly to engage the container for retention purposes.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein step (c) is performed so as to circumferentially compressed said J-hook retention member by at least 10 percent.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein step (c) is performed so as to circumferentially compressed said J-hook retention member by at least 20 percent.

26. (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein step (b) is performed with a closure that further has a ventilation opening defined in at least one of said flexible web elements.
